

Freeman Elementary

December, 2016

Principal's Note

Dr. Donna Ferguson

AWESOME FREEMAN FALCONS

Winter is here and I'm excited to share that our students are doing a great job earning Falcon Feather and Magnifying our Excellence

big difference in what students take responsibility for at school.



awards. We acknowledge the positive behaviors many students have shown us and the newly implemented monthly Falcon Fun Days are having nearly 100% in attendance. We are thankful many of our parents encourage their children to make good decisions even in the face of adversity. Way to go Freeman Falcons! Your comments at home do make a

NEW DISMISSAL PROCEDURE BEGINS

There is one concern I want to address and ask for your support. It is in regard to dismissal. I am concerned about the number of children running into the parking lot in front of or between cars. So we will begin a new dismissal procedure

December Events

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- 12/5-9: Book Fair
- 12/6: Music Concert – Grades 2-3 @ 6:30 pm
- 12/8: Night at the Library & Coat Drive @ 6-7:30 pm
- 12/8: PTA meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 12/13: Sonic Night @ 5-8 pm
- 12/19: BOE Meeting @ 7 pm
- 12/21: Band & Orchestra Concert @ 8:30 am
- 12/23: Early Dismissal @ 11:40 am. NO LUNCH SERVED.
- 12/26 to 1/3 WINTER BREAK



May you and your family have a wonderful winter break. We look forward to 2017!

Freeman Staff

that can be easier for parents and safer for students. Our new procedure will ask that you chose either to remain in your car and follow the car pool lane where an adult will assist your child in getting in your car.... OR you can park your car in the parking lot and walk across the cross walk and get your child. Adult monitors will be

at the front entrance, at the crosswalk, to assist with traffic control. Either way, car pool students will come out the front entrance! We recognize either choice your make, we require some adjustment, but we sincerely hope that this will eliminate students running out into traffic.

We will begin the new dismissal process on Monday, January 9, 2017.



LIBRARY CORNER

Mrs. Davis

It's a Bookaneer Book Fair in the Library December 5th through the 9th. We've got a wonderful batch of books for all ages in your family. Thanks so much for all the families who support our Book Fair each year. I wanted to share some interesting facts with you about how the Book Fair directly effects Freeman students.

- ❖ Total number of books sold at the Fall and Spring Book Fairs last year was 1,114 books.
- ❖ Average number of books purchased per student is 2 books.
- ❖ Average number of independent reading minutes per student from books purchased at the Book Fair is 649 minutes.
- ❖ Total number of independent reading minutes from the Book Fair is 200,520 minutes.

That's some amazing facts about the annual Book Fairs build independent reading for our students.

Besides building reading minutes, the Book Fair also helps build our library. Because of the great success of our Book Fairs we receive \$0.55 from every \$1 spent in the Book Fair to purchase new materials for the Library. Last year's Spring Book Fair enabled us to purchase new books and many exciting STEAM kits for our Full STEAM Ahead! Makerspaces.



So come join us this week at the Book Fair. Our hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:00 pm and three special events for you as well!

- ❖ Tuesday, December 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm for books and Music.
- ❖ Wednesday, December from 7:00- 8:30 am for GRAND Bookaneer Breakfast. Invite your grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, neighbors, and/or devoted caregivers.
- ❖ Thursday, December 8 from – 6:00 to 7:30 pm for Night at the Library, Coat Swap, and Book Fair.

Thanks again so much for supporting our Book Fairs. Without you our kids wouldn't be reading as much or enjoying so many new books and great new Full STEAM Ahead! Makerspace supplies.

Counselor Chronicles

Mr. McGee

November flew by this past month. This month's lessons in Kindergarten, First, Second and Third grade were geared towards identifying the differences between being mean and being a bully; the different types of bullying; the effects bullying can have on a person and what to do if they are being bullied or are a bystander to someone being bullied.

Kindergarten and First Grade read the story *Band-Aid Chicken* by Becky Rangel Henton. Through the story students learned about the importance of handling peer pressure especially when being pressured to bully others. They learned how to be role models by not picking on other students and standing up against those that do.

Second and Third Grade read the story *The Juice Box Bully* by Bob Sornson and Maria Dismody. In the book a new student named Pete starts attending a new school. Although the students are welcoming to him, he only responds with put-downs,

ruining their games and squirting juice onto a classmate's shirt. Together the kids stand up and tell him that they won't tolerate unkind behavior in their school and invite him to take the promise to not treat others unkindly as well. Students then role-played with each other different options they could take to handle a bullying situation in their school.

Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade continued their PRIDE curriculum this month through the topic of Integrity. Students learned about how the tenants of being honest and truthful can lead to better friendships with others and the consequences that not telling the truth can have on them and those around them.

FREEMAN FOOD DRIVE

From November 28th to December 9th, Freeman Elementary will be partnering with the Haysville Community Outreach to host our annual Freeman Food Drive. We will be collecting boxed and canned foods to assist Haysville families this Winter. Last year 881 food items were donated to the cause with your support. We hope to reach our goal of 900

food items this year. Thank you for your continued support with this charitable endeavor.

BIONIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

The BIONIC team has been hard at work this month designing food drive packages to store donations. They have shown off their artistic and creative abilities while working together to help make this year's food drive run smoothly. In December the BIONIC team will begin working on a three-month project where they will write and act out the PRIDE expectations for each area of the school before finally performing in front of the school in the Spring.

Parent Tips:

Play is for everyone. Play boosts imagination and relieves stress for kids of all ages. Try to make sure your youngster has time each day that's free of structured activities. You might encourage him to take out toys he hasn't used in a while — many elementary schoolers still enjoy building with blocks or racing toy cars.

Celebrate progress:

Suggest that your child create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a container with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I memorized the state capitals") on a slip of paper and put it in the container. When she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

Music Notes

Mr. Rust

4TH GRADE

The 4th graders not only received their recorders a few weeks ago, but they are now working 'full steam ahead' and will be doing their first playing tests the week after Thanksgiving! The students are very excited and bring plenty of positive energy and enthusiasm to every rehearsal, which is no doubt helping us progress as fast as possible.

5TH GRADE

The 5th graders are continuing to refine their work on World Music Drumming Ensemble 1 and have also started work on the second ensemble and its accompanying song, "Take Time in Life".

3RD GRADE

3rd grade just went on their annual field trip to the Wichita Symphony's Young People's Concerts and the experience was not only fun, but educational. In addition, they have been working hard on four songs we plan to perform at our upcoming concert on Tuesday, December 6. The concert will take place in the Freeman gym and will begin with the 2nd graders performing at 6:30pm, followed shortly after by the 3rd graders. All students participating should report to their classrooms at 6:20pm



2ND GRADE

As with the 3rd grade, the 2nd graders are preparing four songs to perform at their upcoming concert on Tuesday, December 6. They are excited to show friends and family what we've been learning and to perform!

Academic Corner

Dr. Donna Ferguson

Freeman Falcons have started project-based learning (PBL) activities. What does PBL mean? It means teachers step back and let learning start with a driving or essential question. These questions are posed to students to stimulate critical thinking and problem solving skills. PBL requires students to work collaboratively to solve the question. PBL requires students to formulate their own understanding of the answer to the question. And, PBL often leads to more questioning and more discussions. It is considered student-led learning.

We are incorporating this learning into many components of our academic day. Our PBL activities are a part of the 6-week review week already integrated in our reading curriculum. We are just beginning to use PBL and we are excited to see the work students are putting into their activities.

Please take the time to ask your child what their PBL activity is this month!

WELLNESS

Coach Kelley

"Get Moving Monday" for December is on December 5th. This month our focus will be on stretching and how important it is to do during and after workouts, but don't forget to warm-up first.

Also we will be focusing on how "Speed Stacks" can help students in the gym and the classroom. Sport Stacking is a full-fledged, challenging and fun motor-skilled activity, while also it stands-alone as its own sport. It is easy to learn and appeals to all ability levels of students. It has also been called "Track Meet for Your Hands" by many instructors. Kids simply think it's cool and fun! Speed Stacking challenges the brain, gives immediate feedback and provides physical activity, three things necessary for brain development. Listed below are some benefits to the brain/body from Speed Stacking!

"Benefits of Speed Stacking"

1. Hand-eye coordination
2. Focus
3. Activation of both sides of the body/brain
4. Cross-lateral movement.
5. Ambidexterity----(right hand/left hand)
6. Promote Fitness
7. Improve attention span
8. Reinforce positive classroom behavior
9. Bolster student performance in the classroom
10. Increase academic achievement and test scores

"For your brain to function at its peak, your body needs to get up and move!"

~ Dr. John Ratey

